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**TESTIMONY – Judiciary Committee Public Hearing**

**March 7, 2016**

Good afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Tong and all distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. On behalf of 900 public safety professionals I would like to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to hear testimony on these very important bills.

My name is Glenn Terlecki and I am the President of the Connecticut Police and Fire Union. Our Union represents State employees in law enforcement and firefighting professions. I am here today to testify in support of two bills:

**Raised S.B. No. 363      “AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO VARIOUS STATUTES CONCERNING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM”**

**Raised S.B. No. 326      “AN ACT CONCERNING THE INDEMNIFICATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS”**

Both of these bills address language in Section 53-39a of the general statutes to clarify that all police officers in the State of Connecticut, both municipal and state, are covered by this statute. The intent of the statute is to indemnify police officers from economic loss when an officer is found not guilty or when charges are dismissed following prosecution for a crime allegedly committed in the course of the officer's employment. This includes payment of attorney fees, costs incurred during prosecution and costs incurred to enforce this section.

The current statute defines a police officer as an officer of the State Police, State Capitol Police or local police department. The modification of this statute is only to make clear what the intent and application of this statute has always been – that all police officers are covered by this statute. There are over 400 certified police officers employed at over 17 different State agencies. These officers hold the same police certifications, have the same powers and duties and must comply with the same training and certification requirements as all other police officers across the State. These officers are exposed to the same potential for prosecution as all police officers in Connecticut. In the event that one of these officers finds themselves exonerated after a lengthy prosecution effort, there should be no question whether or not they are indemnified.

The proposed change in the Statute will define police officers as “any member of a law enforcement unit as defined in section 7-294a”. This change will cover all police officers in the state including State Police, municipal police and all police employed by State agencies.

I encourage you to support both of these legislative bills.

**Glenn Terlecki, President  
Connecticut Police and Fire Union**